

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 2 and 18, without prejudice. Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13-17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 31-34, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of processing ~~at least~~ a nanotube, comprising the steps of:

contacting said nanotube with a reactive substrate having a defined edge;

causing a ~~selective~~ solid state reaction between a selected part of ~~[[a]]~~ said nanotube and ~~[[a]]~~ said reactive substance substrate so as to have produce in said selected part ~~only become a~~ reaction product having a boundary aligned with said defined edge; and

separating said nanotube from said reaction product at said boundary to define an end of said nanotube.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said solid state reaction is caused by heating said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is heated by an irradiation of a heat ray onto said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate.

Claim 5 (original): The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said heat ray is an infrared ray.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is heated by applying a current between said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate and said nanotube.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said step of contacting said ~~part of said~~ nanotube with said reactive ~~substance~~ further substrate comprises the steps of:

dispersing said nanotube into an organic solvent to form a dispersion liquid;
applying said dispersion liquid onto a surface of said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate; and
evaporating said organic solvent from said dispersion liquid to leave said nanotube on said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate.

Claim 8 (original): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said nanotube is separated from said reaction product by rapidly cooling said reaction product.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nanotube is a ~~single-layer-winded~~ single-walled nanotube.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nanotube is a ~~multi-layer-winded~~ multi-walled nanotube.

Claim 11 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nanotube is a carbon nanotube.

Claim 12 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nanotube is a boron nitride based nanotube.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is a metal.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said reactive substance substrate is Nb.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reactive substance substrate is a semiconductor.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said reactive substance substrate is Si.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said reactive substance substrate is in a solid state.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~claim 18~~ claim 1, wherein said defined edge is defined by a hole formed in said substrate.

Claim 20 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said end of said nanotube is a top of said nanotube.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method of forming a top of a ~~carbon~~ nanotube, comprising the steps of:

~~selectively~~ contacting a ~~selected part of~~ a nanotube with a solid state reactive substance substrate having ~~[[an]]~~ a defined edge;

carrying out a heat treatment ~~[[to]]~~ of said solid state reactive substance substrate to cause a ~~selective~~ solid state reaction ~~[[on]]~~ in a ~~contacting~~ region of said ~~selected part of~~ said nanotube and said solid state reactive substance substrate so as to have said produce in a selected part only become of said nanotube a reaction product, ~~wherein having a boundary between said reaction~~

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

~~product and said nanotube is self-aligned to~~ aligned with said defined edge of said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate; and

separating said nanotube from said reaction product at said boundary to define a top of said nanotube.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is heated by an irradiation of a heat ray onto said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate.

Claim 23 (original): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said heat ray is an infrared ray.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is heated by applying a current between said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate and said nanotube.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said step of contacting ~~said selected part of~~ said nanotube with said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate further comprises the steps of:

dispersing said nanotube into an organic solvent to form a dispersion liquid;

applying said dispersion liquid onto a surface of said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate; and

evaporating said organic solvent from said dispersion liquid to leave said nanotube on said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate.

Claim 26 (original): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said nanotube is separated from said reaction product by rapidly cooling said reaction product.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said nanotube is a ~~single-layer-winded~~ single-walled nanotube.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said nanotube is a ~~multi-layer-winded~~ multi-walled nanotube.

Claim 29 (original): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said nanotube is a carbon nanotube.

Claim 30 (original): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said nanotube is a boron nitride based nanotube.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is a metal.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is Nb.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is a semiconductor.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is Si.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567